generated power. The views of the representatives of IENS with regard to the review of price of indigenous newsprint were also taken into account by the BICP while finalising their recommendations on the increase to be allowed to the indigenous manufacturers.

(e) As a result of the various measures taken by Government in the past, installed capacity for manufacture of newsprint has increased from the level of 75,000 tonnes in 1981 to 2.30 lakh tonnes in 1985. The indigenous industry is working to more than 90 per cent capacity utilisation. An additional capacity to the extent of 7.46 lakh tonnes has been approved, which is in various stages of implementation. In order to make up the short fall in indigenous supply of newsprint, sizeable quantities of newsprint are being imported. While the prices of imported newsprint is fixed on the recommendation of the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee, the indigenous newsprint manufacturers are allowed to charge only the normative prices as recommended by the BICP.

752. [Transferred to the 6th March, 1986].

Regularisation of the Casual Workers in the Telephone Department

753. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALRAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Employees has protested against the indifferent attitude of the authorities towards the regularisation of 80,000 casual workers and 10,000 reserved Trained Pool staff working in the Telephone department all over the country;

(b) whether the General Secretaries of different unions were on hunger strike about these and other demands;

(c) if so, what are their demands; and

(d) the steps taken to redress the grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir; the NFP&T organised an agitation in Delhi to press for their various demands relating to regularisation of casual labour & RTP Staff etc.

(b) Yes, some office bearers were on hunger strike.

(c) Their main demands were: Regularisation of casual labourers, Reserve Training Pool Staff and connected issues.

(d) The issues involved were discussed in a joint meeting between the representatives of the Unions and Administrative side and an agreement was arrived at. Necessary orders have been issued in fulfilment of the items of agreement.

Scheme regarding instant phones

754. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme regarding installation of instant phones for Rs. 25,000;

(b) what has been the response to this scheme since its inception; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the price of such a telephone to Rs. 15,000, if not, th reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) A proposal for introduction of 'Instant' scheme for provision of new telephone connections is under discussions with the Ministry of Law & Justice. No decision has yet been taken.